

LITERARY NOTES.

"Colonel Carter of Cartersville" has had a notable success—it has gone into its third edition. Mr. Hopkinson Smith should be encouraged to do something more in this vein.

The question "What is genius?" has lately been answered by one of the most distinguished of scientific men. Professor Huxley regards it not as a natural, normal, harmonious growth, but as a "sport." "Genius to my mind," he says, "means innate capacity of any kind above the average mental level. From a biological point of view I should say that a genius among men stands in the same position as a 'sport' among animals and plants, and is a product of that variability which is the postulate of selection, both natural and artificial. On the general ground that a strong, and therefore markedly abnormal, variety is ipso facto not likely to be so well in harmony with existing conditions as the normal standard (which has been brought to what it is largely by the operation of those conditions), I should say that a large proportion of 'genius-sports' are likely to come to grief physically and socially, and that the intensity of feeling which is one of the conditions of genius is especially liable to run into insanity."

Miss Sanborn in her clever book on her New-England farm gives this pleasant glimpse of Whittier in his Danvers home: "I found he had three dogs. Roger Williams, a fine Newfoundland, stood on the piazza with the questioning, panting air of a classified host; a bright-faced Scottie terrier, Charles Dickens, peered at us from the window, as if glad of a little excitement; while Carl, the graceful greyhound, was indolently coiled up on a shawl and took little notice of us. Whittier has also a pet cow, favorite and favored, which puts up her hindmost head for an expected caress. The kindly-hearted old poet, so full of tenderness for all created things, told me that years when nuts were scarce he would put beechnuts andorns here and there as he walked over his farm to cheer the squirrels by an unexpected find."

The English publishers and booksellers are not friends at present. The former are prefixing to their publications such little notices as this: "The publishers intend this book to be sold at the advertised price, and supply it to the trade at terms which do not allow of discount." The booksellers don't like it.

The August number of "Scribner" is a "fiction number," the larger proportion of its pages being given over to the story-tellers. We cannot say that these writers (leaving Mr. Stevenson out of question) have been on this occasion successful; their stories are all more or less forced and artificial and all are depressing. As for Mr. Stevenson's "Wrecker," it would carry more than one unsatisfactory number of a magazine; it is full of brilliant vitality and humor.

Mr. Wigmore's second and concluding Scribner article on parliamentary days in Japan leaves us with a good working knowledge of the progress of the Western spirit and Western institutions in that region of the East. Japan now sees what is in some sort a reign of democracy; it may not extinguish altogether what were virtues and beauties in the old regime.

The late Rolf Boldrewood (Brown), the author of "Robbery on the Adams," left two MS. novels, "A Sidney Side Saxon" and "Nevermore." They will shortly be published by Macmillan.

This master for marvel that a Scotchman—John M. Robertson in his "Modern Humanists"—should thus speak of his great countrymen, Carlyle: "Antagonism, egomaniac, negation, clearness of conviction only that other people are wrong—that is perhaps the most persistent note in his character. . . . He really had no prevailing bent to literature, regarded as a continuous development of thought, save in that he had a great heraldic flow of vivid speech in support of his few ideas. . . . Holding neither by Deism nor Pantheism, he can only be described as a fanatic either for a dualism or for a name. Call his creed 'Godism' and you limit the confusion of words by separately labelling his confusion of thought. . . . In 'Sartor Resarts' he puzzles by affecting to be elusive when his thought is perfectly simple."

The weary mass of MS. left by Victor Hugo—there were over 3,000 pages of it—has been edited and the last volume, "Ocean," is now with the printers. These later volumes do not seem to have aroused any enthusiasm anywhere. His correspondence, dating back to 1820, has now to be edited.

A correspondent of the Tribune asks a pertinent question in regard to the letters from Goethe to Frau von Stein, which a recent dispatch from Berlin stated were to be offered for sale by the poet's grandson. He points out that the last of Goethe's descendants is dead, and declares that the greater part of the correspondence with Frau von Stein is in the possession of the Grand Duchess of Saxe-Weimar, and that the most important of them, written from Italy in 1786 and 1787, were used by Goethe as the groundwork for the "Hellenische Beiseiter." The dispatch did indeed err in naming Goethe's grandson, for it is Frau von Stein's grandson who desires to sell the letters in question. As a master of fact, only an inconsiderable portion of Goethe's correspondence with that clever woman has ever been published, and has been acquired by Weimar. The collection now offered for sale numbers, according to the latest information, from the 1760s to 1820, and consequently cover the half century down to the year preceding Frau von Stein's death. They contain, of course, much that is of interest to history. It appears that the possessor of this important literary treasure will lie between the Royal Library in Berlin and the Goethe collection at Weimar.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

MADAME BOVARY, OR LOVED TO THE LAST. By George Eliot. 12mo, pp. 407. (Laid & Lee.)

THERE MONTH'S TOUR IN IRELAND. By Madame de Bois. Translated by Mrs. Arthur Walter. 12mo, pp. 312. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

EDUCATIONAL TRANSMISSION HANDBOOK. By F. D. Abbott. 1890. pp. 97. (Metrical Publishing Company.)

RAU IN AMERICA. By Karl Kautz. 12mo, pp. 59. (Verlag der Wissenschaften.)

THE CONFESSION OF JOHN WHITLOCK. By E. W. Howe. 12mo, pp. 111. (Globe Publishing Company.)

HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE AGES. By V. H. Duruy. 12mo, pp. 558.

THE STORY OF THE PILGRIMSTERS. By James Jeffrey. 12mo, pp. 673. (Macmillan & Co.)

THE STRANGE STORY OF DR. SENEX. By E. Baldwin. 12mo, pp. 205. (Minerva Publishing Company.)

THE TELL-TALE AND THE WAY STORIES. By Jessie B. Fremont. 12mo, pp. 182. (D. Lothrop Company.)

LOGARITHMIC TABLES. By Webster Wells. 8vo, pp. 79. (Leach, Shewell & Sanborn.)

THE LEY-LOCATOR'S HANDBOOK. By Charles L. Ley. 12mo, pp. 210. (P. Putnam's Sons.)

THE DIVINE ORDER OF HUMAN SOCIETY. By Professor Ellis Thompson. 12mo, pp. 274. (John D. Wilcock.)

MEMOIRS OF THE PRINCE TALLENDREY. By G. P. F. Du Bioglio. Vol. 3. 8vo, pp. 324. (G. P. F. Du Bioglio's Sons.)

MICHELINA. By Hector Malot. 12mo, pp. 320. (D. Lothrop Company & Co.)

THE AMERICAN GIRL IN PARIS. By Alexander Dumas. 12mo, pp. 264. (Doubleday & Company.)

THE MADONNA OF FAAS CHRISTIAN. By George E. O'Conor. 12mo, pp. 480. (Doubleday & Company.)

A QUESTION OF TIME. By Gertrude F. Atherton. 12mo, pp. 250. (J. W. Lovell & Co.)

ONE WOMAN'S WAY. By Edmund Pendleton. 12mo, pp. 342. (D. Appleton & Co.)

JOHN ABRAHAM TOP NOVELIST. By Anson Updike. 12mo, pp. 270. (Charles H. Kerr & Co.)

WHAT'S BREWED IN THE BONE. By Grant Allen. 12mo, pp. 248. (Rand McNally & Co.)

THAT UNCOMFORTABLE HOME. By Avard J. Moore. 12mo, pp. 240. (D. Lothrop Company.)

CHRONICLE OF THE BUILDERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH. By Hubert H. Bancroft. 8vo, pp. 648. (The History Co.)

WAS IT THE WOMAN'S FAULT? By Saville Moore. 12mo, pp. 240. (Doubleday & Company.)

A SKETCH IN THE IDEALS. 12mo, pp. 194. (J. B. Lippincott Co.)

THE ROYAL OUTLAW. By Sylvanus Cobb, Jr. 12mo, pp. 210. (Doubleday & Company's Sons.)

HARPER & BROTHERS' DESCRIPTIVE LIST of their Publications, with trade-list prices.

HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY AND CHARACTERIZATION. 12mo, pp. 32. (The History Co.)

New Publications

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